

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT: Jeanne Lopatto, 202/586-4940 FOR IMMEDATE RELEASE Thursday, June 27, 2002

Statement of Energy Secretary Abraham

WASHINGTON, DC - Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham today released the following statement regarding the departure of NNSA Administrator John Gordon to join the National Security Council.

"John Gordon brought leadership and a strong sense of purpose to the National Nuclear Security Administration.

"He launched an ambitious effort to revitalize the nuclear weapons complex and its infrastructure after a decade of decline. He has also ensured that the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile is safe and secure, that our nonproliferation programs are effective and that we are continuing to meet the nuclear propulsion needs of the U.S. Navy.

"We have been able to get our national security programs back on track with a renewed focus and mission as a result of his dedication and hard work.

"While we are sorry to lose John, the President has made an excellent choice and John leaves the NNSA on firm footing to continue to perform its vital missions."

-DOE-

R-02-126